

**SENATE, No. 1548**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator BOB SMITH**

**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Diegnan**

**SYNOPSIS**

Permits municipalities to require that new construction be solar ready.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/4/2021)**

1 AN ACT permitting municipalities to require that new construction  
2 be solar ready and supplementing P.L.1975, c.217 (C.52:27D-  
3 119 et seq.).  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*  
7

8 1. a. A municipality may by ordinance condition the issuance  
9 of a construction permit for any new structure or building on the  
10 requirement that the structure or building be solar ready.

11 b. An ordinance adopted pursuant to subsection a. of this  
12 section shall require a construction permit application for a new  
13 structure or building to contain plans for the structure or building to  
14 be solar ready before the application may be declared complete.

15 c. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations  
16 pursuant to its rule-making authority under the "Administrative  
17 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) in order to  
18 effectuate the purposes of this section.

19 d. As used in this section:

20 "Solar panel" means an elevated panel or plate, or a canopy or  
21 array thereof, that captures and converts solar radiation to produce  
22 power, and includes flat plate, focusing solar collectors, or  
23 photovoltaic solar cells and includes the base or foundation of the  
24 panel, plate, canopy, or array.

25 "Solar ready" means the incorporation of design elements in a  
26 structure or building that allow for the installation of rooftop solar  
27 panels and, if the structure or building is intended to use hot water,  
28 a solar water heating system.

29 "Solar water heating system" means a system which uses solar  
30 energy as the primary means of heating water.  
31

32 2. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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### 35 STATEMENT

36  
37 This bill would allow municipalities to require that all newly  
38 constructed buildings in the municipality be solar ready. Under the  
39 bill, a building is considered solar ready if rooftop solar panels and,  
40 if applicable, a solar water heating system may be installed thereon.  
41 This bill would give municipalities the flexibility to promote the  
42 expansion of solar power generation and usage by requiring that  
43 new buildings are designed to be easily equipped with rooftop solar  
44 panels and solar water heating systems.